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From: drupal_admin@epa.gov [mailto:drupal_admin@epa.gov]

Sent: Monday, June 20, 2016 1:45 PM

To: HarborComments <HarborComments@epa.gov>

Subject: Harbor Comments

Submitted on 06/20/2016 4:44PM

Submitted values are:

Your Name: (b) (6)

Your Email: (b) (6)

Your Comments:

I grew up in Portland and went to Wilson High School in the 1990s. As a teenager, each January 1, I and a group of peers would wade into the Willamette for a New Year's swim, a symbolic way to cleanse our spirits and meet the new year with rigor. But sometime in the late '90s or early '00s, we learned that the river was unsafe for us to wade into--too toxic. We switched our ritual to a small, uninspiring swimming pool in someone's backyard.

I find it shameful that the Superfund cleanup has taken as long as it has--it has been decades since I first learned of the toxicity of the Willamette. And now that EPA has finally generated a cleanup plan for the river, I am unhappy with several aspects of the plan. While it's virtually impossible for a city river to run pristine, I want to see Portland's river as clean as a city river can possibly be.

I agree with the points laid out by others who have criticized the plan:

1. The draft cleanup plan leaves far too much of the river contaminated for generations to come. We recommend that at least 1,000 acres of polluted sediment be removed from the river.
2. The draft cleanup plan relies too much on "monitored natural recovery," a "do nothing" strategy that leaves pollution in the river in the hopes that it will either be covered over or flushed downstream.
3. The cleanup plan must result in the removal of the Fish Consumption Advisory so that eating fish from the Lower Willamette is just as safe as eating fish from anywhere else in the Willamette River system and this must occur within a 10-20 year time frame.
4. Creating a toxic waste disposal dump in our river is not acceptable—toxic dredged sediments must be taken to an appropriate landfill.
5. Entities with liability for the pollution must be held accountable and pay for a comprehensive cleanup that will protect the health of our communities, our environment and our wildlife.

I urge you to make changes to the plan based on these criticisms.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)